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What Americans think about legal immigration, according to a new poll

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON and AMELIA THOMSON-DE-VEAUX

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) —

As President Donald Trump's administration imposes new restrictions on the legal immigration system, U.S. adults are more likely than they were a year ago to think these immigrants benefit the country, according to a new poll. The survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds that Americans are more likely than they were in March 2024 to say it's a "major benefit" that people who come to the U.S. legally contribute to economic growth and help American companies get the expertise of skilled workers. The survey also shows that Americans are less likely than they were in January to say the number of legal immigrants to the U.S. should be reduced. Slightly fewer than half of Americans say the number should remain the same, a similar percentage from earlier this year.

At the same time, perceptions of illegal immigration haven't shifted meaningfully. Americans continue to see fewer benefits from people who come to the U.S. illegally, and they're more likely to see major risks from these immigrants, including the concern that they'll commit crimes while in the U.S.

Trump, a Republican, has focused much of his attention on arresting and deporting those in the country illegally, but new screenings, vetting and increased costs are also impacting people who want to come to the U.S. legally to work or study. On Friday, Trump signed a proclamation to overhaul the H-1B visa program, one of the most common pathways for highly skilled foreign workers, requiring now a \$100,000 fee for applications. The Trump administration is also subjecting green card applicants to "anti-



A poster showing the Trump Gold Card is pictured as President Donald Trump speaks in the Oval Office of the White House, Friday, Sept. 19, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

Americanism" screening, and students applying for visas now need to adhere to social media vetting.

Even Republicans are less likely to say legal immigration should be reduced than they were earlier this year and more likely to say it should remain as is. Philip Steers, of St. Petersburg, Florida, is a Republican and feels the U.S. makes it too difficult for people to migrate legally. His nephew married a woman from Cambodia, and they have been trying for months to secure a spouse visa.

"If you are pushing all those people who are illegal out, why not make it easier for people who want to come here legally?" said Steers, 76. "We need to speed up the process for those who want to come here to benefit our country."

Republicans less likely to want to reduce legal immigration

While slightly fewer than half of U.S. adults say the number of legal immigrants should stay as it is, about one-quarter say the number of legal immigrants to the U.S. should be reduced "a lot" or "a little." That marks a decrease from

January, when about one-third said this.

The drop is largely driven by Republicans. About 3 in 10 Republicans now say that legal immigration should be reduced, down from 45% in January.

About 3 in 10 U.S. adults say the number of legal immigrants to the U.S. should be increased "a lot" or "a little," up slightly from January, when 24% of Americans wanted an increase in legal immigration.

"If you don't have immigration as a culture, the culture will stagnate. You have to have that balance," Steers said.

More see benefits from immigrants for economic growth and companies. Americans are more likely to see "major" benefits from people who come to the U.S. legally and less likely to see "major" risks, compared with an AP-NORC poll conducted early last year.

About 6 in 10 U.S. adults say a "major" benefit of immigrants in the country legally is that they contribute to economic growth, which went up from about 4 in 10 in March 2024. Similarly, 51% of U.S. adults say a "major" benefit of legal immigra-

tion is that American companies get the expertise of skilled workers in fields like science and technology, compared with 41% in March 2024.

Carlos Gonzalez, who was born in the U.S. to Panamanian parents, said immigrants "provide a lot to the economy of the United States."

"They bring different ideas that help the economy," said Gonzalez, 53, a Democrat from Waterbury, Connecticut, adding his mother served as a military nurse in Vietnam. "A lot of people don't realize that when they do come over here, they try to enrich the country and not take away from it."

Some of the perceived benefits are economic, but some are cultural, with about 46% saying a "major" benefit of legal immigrants is that they enrich American culture and values, up from 38% in the previous poll.

Shifting views don't extend to immigrants in the country illegally

Jeff Witoszczak, of El Paso, Texas, identifies as a moderate Republican and supports Trump's efforts to conduct large-scale deporta-

tions of people in the country illegally, saying he does not think the focus needs to be on those who have committed violent crimes. Witoszczak is married to a woman from Mexico who came to the U.S. legally when she was a child.

"Coming here illegally, that's a crime in and of itself," Witoszczak said. "They didn't follow due process coming in. They don't need due process going out."

Americans tend to see greater risks and smaller benefits from immigrants who are in the country illegally, and these views largely haven't shifted since last year.

About 4 in 10 U.S. adults now say it's a major benefit that immigrants in the country illegally will take jobs Americans don't want, up from about one-third last year. And 42% say that immigrants in the country illegally contribute to economic growth, and 32% believe that they enrich American culture and values. Those findings have remained steady since last year.

About half of U.S. adults say it's a major risk that immigrants in the country illegally will burden welfare and safety net programs. Studies have shown that immigrants who work in the country illegally pay local, state and federal taxes and generally do not qualify for federal benefits. □



Trump cancels White House meeting with Schumer and Jeffries despite risk of a government shutdown

By LISA MASCARO
AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has abruptly canceled this week's planned meeting with congressional Democratic leaders, refusing to negotiate over their demands to shore up health care funds as part of a deal to prevent a potential looming federal government shutdown.

In a lengthy Tuesday social media post, Trump rejected the sit-down that the White House had agreed to a day before. It would have been the first time the Republican president met with the Democratic Party's leaders, Sen. Chuck Schumer and Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, since his return to the White House.

"I have decided that no meeting with their Congressional Leaders could possibly be productive," Trump wrote in the post.

The president complained the Democrats "are threatening to shut down the Government of the United States" unless the Republicans agree to more funding for health care for various groups of people he has criticized. Trump did not close the door on a future sit-down with the Democratic leaders, but he warned of a "long and brutal slog" ahead unless Democrats dropped their demands to salvage health care funds.

The stalemate over a funding deal or even talks between the White House and Congress to strike a compromise has quickly intensified the risk of federal closures, starting as soon as next week, ahead of the Oct. 1 deadline for the start of the government's new fiscal year.

The Democratic leaders swiftly accused the Republican president of throwing a tantrum and running away from the situation.

"Trump Always Chickens Out," Jeffries posted on X. In a post directed at Trump, Schumer said Democrats



House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., left, and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., speak to reporters to criticize Republican efforts to cut health care spending, at the Capitol in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025.

Associated Press

will sit down and discuss health care "when you're finished ranting."

Schumer said Trump "is running away from the negotiating table before he even gets there" and would "rather throw a tantrum than do his job."

Trump has been unafraid of shutting down the government and, during his first term, was president over the nation's longest federal closure, during the 2018-19 holiday season, when he was pushing Congress to provide funds for his long-promised U.S.-Mexico border wall.

The president insisted over the weekend that essential services, including those for veterans, would remain open.

Thursday's scheduled meeting would have potentially set up a show-down at the White House, reminiscent of the 2018 funding fight when Trump led an explosive public session with Schumer and Rep. Nancy Pelosi.

Schumer and Jeffries had been demanding a meeting with Trump to work out a compromise over the health care funds, and earlier Tuesday had welcomed plans for this week's meeting.

But the Republican president has been reluctant to enter talks and instructed

GOP leaders on Capitol Hill not to negotiate with the Democrats.

House Speaker Mike Johnson's office said that the Democrats are holding government funding "hostage" to their demands for vast amounts of health care funding.

Republicans, who have the majority in both the House and the Senate, have been trying to avoid a shutdown.

Johnson had led the passage late last week of a temporary funding measure, which would have kept government offices running into November while talks get underway. □

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Missouri woman gets more than 4 years in prison for trying to sell off Elvis Presley's Graceland

By **ADRIAN SAINZ**
Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A Missouri woman who tried to use a fake company and forged documents to sell off Elvis Presley's Graceland for millions of dollars in a brazen and unrealistic foreclosure sale of the home-turned-museum was sentenced Tuesday to more than four years in federal prison.

U.S. District Judge John T. Fowlkes Jr. questioned the likelihood of the plot's success when he sentenced Lisa Jeanine Findley in federal court in Memphis to four years and nine months behind bars, plus an additional three years of probation. Findley, 54, declined to speak on her own behalf during the hearing.

Findley pleaded guilty in February to a charge of mail fraud related to the scheme. She also had been indicted on a charge of aggravated identity theft, but that charge was dropped as part of a plea agreement.

Findley, of Kimberling City, falsely claimed Presley's daughter borrowed \$3.8 million from a bogus private lender and had pledged Graceland as collateral for



Graceland, Elvis Presley's home, is pictured, Jan. 7, 2011, in Memphis, Tenn.

Associated Press

the loan before her death in January 2023, prosecutors said when Findley was charged in August 2024. She then threatened to sell Graceland to the highest bidder if Presley's family didn't pay a \$2.85 million settlement, according to authorities.

Findley posed as three different people allegedly involved with the fake lender, fabricated loan documents and published a

fraudulent foreclosure notice in a Memphis newspaper announcing the auction of Graceland in May 2024, prosecutors said. A judge stopped the sale after Presley's granddaughter sued.

Experts were baffled by the attempt to sell off one of the most storied pieces of real estate in the country using names, emails and documents that were quickly suspected to be phony.

Graceland served as Presley's home in Memphis before he died in August 1977 at the age of 42. It opened as a museum and tourist attraction in 1982 and draws hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. A large Presley-themed entertainment complex across the street from the museum is owned by Elvis Presley Enterprises.

The public notice for the foreclosure sale of the 13-

acre (5-hectare) estate said Promenade Trust, which controls the Graceland museum, owed \$3.8 million after failing to repay a 2018 loan. Actor Riley Keough, Presley's granddaughter, inherited the trust and ownership of the home after the death of her mother, Lisa Marie Presley. Keough filed a lawsuit claiming fraud, and a judge halted the proposed auction with an injunction. Naussany Investments and Private Lending the bogus lender authorities say Findley created said Lisa Marie Presley had used Graceland as collateral for the loan, according to the foreclosure sale notice. Keough's lawsuit alleged that Naussany presented fraudulent documents regarding the loan in September 2023 and that Lisa Marie Presley never borrowed money from Naussany.

Kimberly Philbrick, the notary whose name is listed on Naussany's documents, indicated she never met Lisa Marie Presley nor notarized any documents for her, according to the estate's lawsuit. The judge said the notary's affidavit brought into question the authenticity of the signature. □

Man charged with shining laser pointer at Marine One with Trump aboard

By **MICHAEL KUNZELMAN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A man accused of shining a laser pointer at Marine One with President Donald Trump aboard the helicopter has been arrested on a federal criminal charge, according to a court filing on Monday.

Jacob Samuel Winkler, 33, of Washington, D.C., is charged with aiming the beam of a laser pointer at an aircraft, a felony punishable by a maximum prison sentence of five years. Online court records don't list an attorney representing him.

Marine One was airborne

on Saturday near the White House when a U.S. Secret Service patrol officer spotted Winkler walking on a

sidewalk, shirtless and loudly talking to himself, the of-



A Marine salutes as Marine One carrying President Donald Trump lands at Joint Base Andrews, Md., Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025.

Associated Press

ficer wrote in an affidavit. The officer said he shone a flashlight at Winkler, who apparently retaliated by flashing a red laser beam at the officer's face.

As Marine One flew over their heads, Winkler looked up and shined the laser pointer at the helicopter, according to the officer. After the officer handcuffed him, Winkler repeatedly talked about apologizing to Trump, the affidavit says. The court filing doesn't say if anybody aboard the helicopter noticed the laser. But the officer said Winkler's conduct could have temporarily blinded or disoriented a pilot, placing

Marine One at risk of an airborne collision with other helicopters in the area.

"This behavior endangers Marine One and everyone on board," U.S.

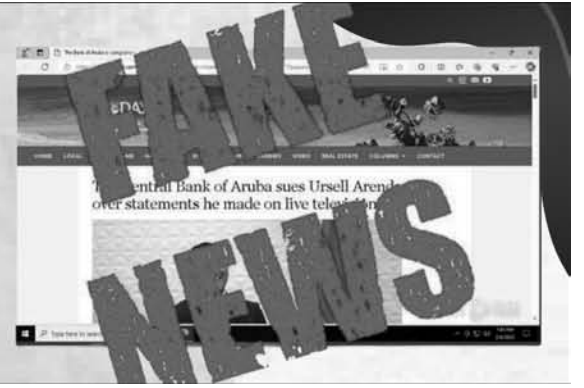
Attorney Jeanine Pirro said in a statement. "If you engage in this act, you will be identified and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

Winkler told investigators that he points the laser "at all kinds of things, such as stop signs," and didn't know he couldn't point it at Marine One, the affidavit says. Investigators also found a small knife in his possession, according to the officer. □

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NATO warns Russia it will use all means to defend against airspace breaches after Estonia incursions

By LORNE COOK
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — NATO warned Russia on Tuesday that it would use all means to defend against any further breaches of its airspace after the downing this month of Russian drones over Poland and Estonia's report of an intrusion by Russian fighter jets last week.

The Sept. 10 incident in Poland was the first direct encounter between NATO and Moscow since the war in Ukraine began. It jolted leaders across Europe, raising questions about how prepared the alliance is against growing Russian aggression.

Another test of NATO's preparedness and credibility came last Friday, after Estonia said three Russian fighter jets had entered its airspace for 12 minutes without authorization, a charge that Russia has rejected.

"Russia should be in no doubt: NATO and Allies will employ, in accordance



NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte speaks during a media conference at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2025.

with international law, all necessary military and non-military tools to defend ourselves and deter all threats from all directions," the alliance said in a statement. "We will continue to respond in the manner, timing, and domain of our

choosing," the 32-member NATO said, and underlined its commitment to Article 5 of its founding treaty that an attack on any one ally must be considered an attack on them all.

Asked whether suspect aircraft would be shot down,

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte said this would depend "on available intelligence regarding the threat posed by the aircraft, including questions we have to answer like intent, armaments and potential risk to allies, forces,

civilians or infrastructure."

U.S. President Donald Trump was more blunt. Asked by a reporter Tuesday if he thought NATO countries should shoot down such aircraft, Trump said, "Yes, I do." He later added that direct U.S. involvement would depend on the circumstances.

On Monday, Prime Minister Donald Tusk said Poland would "without discussion" shoot down flying objects when they violate Polish territory.

Not all appear to endorse that approach. "We will always assess the situation, assess the immediate threat the plane poses," Rutte said. The NATO statement came after Estonia requested formal consultations under Article 4 of its treaty, which allows any alliance member to demand a meeting if it believes its territorial integrity, political independence or security is threatened. Rutte said the call for talks was "absolutely warranted." □

Associated Press

Trump administration designates Barrio 18 gang as foreign terrorist organization

By MEGAN JANETSKY
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The Trump administration Tuesday designated the Barrio 18 gang as a foreign terrorist organization, joining other Latin American criminal groups receiving the designation in recent months.

Barrio 18, largely based in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, originated in the United States as a street gang in Los Angeles created by young Salvadoran immigrants as a way to protect themselves. When many of their members were deported from the U.S. to El Salvador, the gang expanded and gained power across Central America, where it continues to terrorize communities.

In recent years, the gang has been dealt

a powerful blow by El Salvador President Nayib Bukele, who has waged war on the country's gangs, imprisoning more than 1% of El Salvador's population for alleged gang ties with little evidence or access to due process. That has sharply dropped crime rates in El Salvador, but also fueled accusations of mass human rights abuses by the government.

In a statement on Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the designation "further demonstrates the Trump administration's unwavering commitment to dismantling cartels and gangs and ensuring the safety of the American people."

Bukele has long referred to members of the gang as "terrorists" and even built a mega-prison known as the Terrorism Confinement Center. □



A leader of the Barrio 18 gang stands handcuffed facing a wall after his arrest in San Salvador, El Salvador, July 28, 2015.

Associated Press

Lax gun laws in Brazil and U.S. help arm Brazil's organized crime, study finds

By GABRIELA SÁ PESSOA
Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Gunmen in a car opened fire last November at Sao Paulo's airport and killed a cryptocurrency entrepreneur in a daytime hit that was one of Brazil's most shocking recent crimes.

Police at the scene recovered three semiautomatic rifles that are restricted for civilian use.

The case highlighted a growing trend: Restricted-use, military-style firearms are increasingly ending up in the hands of Brazilian criminal organizations, according to a study published Tuesday by the Sou da Paz Institute, a Brazilian nonprofit that tracks gun violence. Most of the guns are made in Brazil, but in second place are those that come from the United States.

The victim, Antônio Vinícius Lopes Gritzbach, had received death threats from a powerful international criminal group called First Command of the Capital, or PCC, after he agreed to a plea bargain to testify about his ties to the organization.

Found at the scene were a Smith & Wesson semiauto-



Reflected in glass, a visitor takes pictures of a T10 LP rifle displayed at the LAAD Defense and Security International Exhibition in Rio de Janeiro, April 11, 2023.

Associated Press

matic rifle bought by a U.S. citizen 15 years before at a gun shop in Winchester, Virginia and abandoned in a backpack near Sao Paulo's international airport, according to police records reviewed by The Associated Press.

The other two were Romanian-made weapons, also purchased in the United States. Authorities have not determined how the guns entered Brazil.

Researchers study cases of

nearly 7,000 seized guns

The study by Sou da Paz Institute analyzed restricted firearm seizures from 2019 to 2023 in Brazil's southeast, the country's largest region and home to both Sao Paulo's PCC and a group based in Rio de Janeiro called Red Command.

Researchers reviewed records of nearly 7,000 seized guns, combining data obtained through freedom of information requests with police records from the re-

gion's four states. The data included seizure dates, locations, crime types and weapon details.

It showed an 11.4% increase in the seizures of restricted, military-style guns over the five-year period.

The study attributes at least part of the rise in heavy weaponry in criminal hands to looser gun regulations in Brazil under former President Jair Bolsonaro, who authorized many kinds of weapons once restricted

to military and police use for civilians, including 9 mm pistols and some semiautomatic rifles.

The number of privately owned firearms nearly doubled, from 1.3 million at the end of 2018 to 2.9 million in 2022, according to the study. Some of these guns were diverted to the illegal market, after an increase of reported stolen guns from sport shooters and collectors.

"It's clear that weaker gun controls during the Bolsonaro administration opened a new pathway for organized crime: cheaper, with a veneer of legality and enabled by straw buyers of rifles," said Carolina Ricardo, executive director of Sou da Paz.

In July 2023, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva signed a decree tightening restrictions on civilian access to guns, reversing the pro-firearms policies of his right-wing predecessor.

The decree restored restrictions on semiautomatic weapons, reduced the number of guns civilians can possess for personal safety from four to two and required documentation proving the need to hold the weapons. □

Darfur cholera cases rising at an 'alarming' rate as death toll in Sudan tops 3,000, says WHO

GENEVA (AP) — The number of reported cholera cases is increasing in Darfur and more than 3,000 people across all of Sudan have died from the illness over the last 14 months of civil war, the U.N. health agency said Tuesday.

The current outbreak of the bacterial infection caused by contaminated food or water has spread to all 18 states in the war-torn country after erupting in Kassala state in July last year, the World Health Organization said.

Hala Khudari, its deputy representative in Sudan, said WHO has launched a vaccination campaign targeting 406,000 people in North Darfur State that

comes "as cholera cases in Darfur continue to rise at an alarming rate at an alarming fatality rate, to be

specific."

As of Sunday, some 12,739 cases and 358 deaths have been reported in more



A Sudanese girl receives an oral cholera vaccine during a 10-day vaccination campaign conducted by health ministry workers in Khartoum, Sudan, Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2025.

Associated Press

than half of Darfur localities, she said. The outbreak reached Darfur state in western Sudan in May.

"Reported cases in Darfur continue to increase amid severe access constraints that are impeding the required scale of response," Khudari told reporters in Geneva by video from Port Sudan.

The conflict between the Sudanese military and the Rapid Support Forces paramilitary group erupted in April 2023 in Khartoum before spreading across the country.

The civil war has killed at least 40,000 people and displaced as many as 12 million others, U.N. officials have said.

Both sides have been accused of committing atrocities like ethnic cleansing, extrajudicial killings and sexual violence against civilians, including children. Meanwhile, many people across Sudan have been pushed to the brink of famine.

The conflict and increased movements of people who have fled the fighting have limited access to basic services like clean water, food and health care.

Overall, more than 113,600 cases and over 3,000 deaths have been reported from across the country, reaching a fatality ratio of 2.7%, well above the 1% target threshold, Khudari said. □

The Lionfish and its threat to our marine wild life



(Oranjestad)—Despite its colorful and striking appearance, the lionfish has become a Caribbean-wide problem for Atlantic sea life. The Aruban marine wild life is also affected by this beautiful dilemma, as it is foreign to our waters and has become a danger to our local fish and reefs.

Originating from the Indo-Pacific Ocean, the lionfish is a relatively small fish. It has no teeth, but it does protect itself against predators using its sharp, colorful spikes. It is said that the sting of a lionfish can be up to 100 times more painful

than that of a bee's sting.

Its natural predators in the Indo-Pacific are sharks and barracudas, but in the Caribbean Sea, local fish do not recognize the lionfish as part of their diet. In other words, the lionfish has no predators in the Caribbean Sea.

And this becomes a major problem for our local marine life; if there are no predators to stimulate population control of lionfish, these fish can continue to reproduce and expand to other parts of the Atlantic, become more invasive

and dangerous for other types of fish.

For Aruba, the lionfish is a problem especially for our local coral reefs. According to Patrick van Brakel, lionfish expert and hunter from the Hunting Lionfish Aruba foundation, every reef has a "cleaning station" tiny fish that eat algae and other types of waste on a reef, thus maintaining the reef's health and providing food to the fish population in the area. However, as the lionfish feeds off of these tiny fish, it becomes harder for the coral reef to maintain its health.



Patrick also shares the origins of lionfish in the Caribbean Sea. It is theorized that the introduction of these fish in the Atlantic happened in Florida, where people would buy lionfish from across the world to keep in their aquariums. However, lionfish grow, and as these buyers realized that the fish were too much upkeep, they were let out into the ocean to roam free. From continental USA, the lionfish travelled to and invaded the entire Caribbean area, from Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao up to New York. In Aruba, lionfish were discovered in 2009.

Controlling the lionfish population is challenge, as each female fish can lay up

to 40,000 eggs a day. Luckily, we have people like van Brakel who dedicate their lives hunting and capturing these invasive species, using them for consumption and jewelry making.

They are caught with a hand spear, an object resembling a garbage picker with 4 sharp prongs. These spears are used like a sling shot to catch lionfish from a distance. These fish are then put into a collecting tube and taken out of the water. Van Brakel not only catches them himself, but also cooks them for locals and tourists at The LionFish Snack Aruba in Paradera. This way, he does his part in protecting the local wild life. □

Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill

(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill.

Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba. located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point



on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Ja-

manota Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park. The staircase that run on

the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase

consisted of 900 steps. Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the government decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled it may still be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up the stair for a little rest. The view at this resting stop is also a sight to see.

The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day. □

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Visit the natural bridges of Aruba!

(Oranjestad)—After you’ve visited the Alto Vista Church, the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and the mini natural pool that is located right next to it, you’re next up around the northern coast line must be the Natural Bridge. Once the largest natural bridge in the Caribbean, this bridge has been a tourist attraction for many years.

The bridge was formed during thousands of years, cut and crafted by the wild waves that crash into the coral stone walls of the coast. Before its collapse, this bridge measured 30 meters in length and 7 meters in height, making it the biggest natural bridge in the Caribbean at the time. For many years, this site was also a frequently visited beach, as the bridge had



a small opening through which the water would flow into the tiny beach.

Unfortunately in 2005, the bridge collapsed, and the

little beach dried up. Despite this, this site remained a tourist attraction, with many visitors walking along the coral cliffs of the bridge to see the spectacular view



of the northern coastline and the Caribbean Sea. Visitors can also still visit the souvenir shop on the left of the bridge entrance. While the natural bridge

no longer is functional, there is now a smaller natural bridge very close. This bridge is often called the “Baby Bridge” or “Daughter Bridge”.

Aruba’s kite flying tradition

(Oranjestad)—Every year for King’s Day, Arubans gather with friends and family to fly kites. Big or small, paper or plastic, blue skies fill up with these colorful flying contraptions, brightening our yearly celebration of the Dutch Monarch.

The tradition of flying kites starts at home in the weeks leading up to King’s Day. These kites were traditionally made with things found in the nearby mondi* and in the kitchen at home. Using dried up cactus sticks for the frame, old news papers, and glue made from flour, water and salt to dry faster (some people even use cornstarch slurry as glue), kids usually make their own kites with their friends, parents or other close family members. Tails are made



from old bed sheets, ripped and tied together to create a long string of fabric trailing behind the back end of the kite. To finish off the process, people used fish lines or thin rope to tie three corners of the kite together. Another long string of rope is tied in the knotted center and bundled up, used to steer the kite as it flies in the

air. Decorating the kite was especially important, and children would use paint to create their own designs—the more colorful, the better!

People usually fly their kites in big open fields, like empty soccer and baseball fields found all around the island around noon, when



the sun is at its brightest.

In the past few years, kite flying has become a sport in which groups of people would battle against each other to see whose kite is the biggest, the prettiest, and whose could fly flawlessly and longer in the air. For this year’s celebration, Centro di Bario Playa Pa-

bao located in Madiki is organizing another edition of their kite flying event with different categories of height starting at 8AM.

Gather your family and be a part of this colorful Aruban tradition in celebration of our King Willem-Alexander’s birthday!

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The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market
Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Moments & Memories Jewelry
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

Cas Floria: The Decorated Houses of Aruba

(Oranjestad)—There may be as many as 200 to 300 houses in Aruba that have beautiful decorations, including curtains, stars, flowers, half-moons, etc., placed on the corners or the upper parts of the house.

These houses can be found everywhere, in nearly every district of Aruba. People always thought that these designs came from an Indigenous culture; possibly, the star design resembled the way it was shown, similar to the "God Sun" of the Indigenous people. However, the history of this decorative system does not go very far back in time.

In his book *Millefiori di Aruba*, Father Nooyen declares that the first house to receive this type of decoration was the home of Mr. Bernardo Eman Croes in Pos Chikito. Julien (Janchi) Christiaans and Gregorio (Goy) Semeleer built this house in 1920 and created the decorations on the upper corners of the house. Other people in Pos Chikito, who saw this beautiful work, also wanted their houses decorated in the same way.

Leoncio (Joonchi) Henricus of Pos Chikito learned the work from Janchi Christiaans and, together with his son Bonifacio (Bonny) Henricus, continued decorating houses in Pos Chikito and Sabana Basora.

Janchi Christiaans, Goy



Semeleer, and others from Noord, such as Hilario Christiaans, Victor Tromp, Gerardo Jacobs, and Cornelis Rosa, brought the same decoration to houses in Noord and Paradera. In 1927, Janchi Christiaans built a house for Julian Tromp in Buguruy.

This was the first house in Noord to receive this type of decoration. Later, those in Paradera, Santa Cruz, and Savaneta copied the house decorations. They practiced these systems up until 1944.

Even today, the patterns are well preserved and protected, but they are no longer used.

Janchi Christiaans began cutting the patterns out of zinc plates and cardboard. He also had his own creations and systems, while Leoncio and Bonifacio Henricus produced their own fantasies. This is what made these decorations popular: many people could turn their imagination

into expressive art.

However, the decoration of houses was not originally Janchi Christiaans's idea. Janchi was a disciple of his father, Hose Christiaans, and of the Donati family, from Italian ancestors. They also made these decorations, though without using any patterns, simply designing and applying them with common plaster as the material.

Using Dr. Johan Hartog's *Aruba, Breve Historia* as reference, I noticed that he also writes that these designs are not Indigenous symbols, but only decorative fantasies. One point of disagreement is that he wrote that in 1820 someone from Curaçao began this type of decoration in Aruba.

This means that, according to Father Nooyen, who declared that it began in 1920, it would have actually started 100 years earlier. As part of his research, Ito Tromp also interviewed Mr.



Julio Maduro of the Department of Labor at that time, who told him that around 1880 Johannes (Janchi) Wolff began with house decorations. And as Janchi himself said, he learned this from his grandfather, who in earlier times had built the first lighthouse at California Point.

After comparing his information, Ito Tromp wrote that Hartog was right concerning the period when decorated houses began in Aruba in 1820. However, it was not people from Curaçao who started it. Victor Tromp, who was 87 years old at the time of writing, was a member of Janchi Wolff's family.

Julio Maduro said that in 1920 they began again with this type of decoration. In general, there is no specific year (up to now) when Arubans first began with this decorative artistic expression. It is interesting to know that these decorations are a kind of symbol for several generations.

For example: Decorations that appear on the house of the Arends family could also be seen on the houses of the Bermudez or Croes families. This was because parents always gave a specific sign to their sons or daughters when they were getting married.

It was also said that these



designs had a certain kind of voodoo purpose, to keep away the spirits of the Indigenous people who were buried in the neighborhoods where the houses now stand. However, this has almost completely disappeared.

As for the continuation of these designs from family to family, this is a cultural heritage that is no longer established. For this reason, in earlier times, every young man who married had to have his own house; otherwise, there would be no marriage.

The designs were created according to the individual's imagination. If he saw, for example, six pairs of birds on a tree, he would then paint six pairs of birds on a tree. If he wanted to express his love for his twin children, then he designed a twin.

Nowadays, if you want to use these designs for your house, don't worry you can simply copy them and paint them. □

Source: *E casnan Decora na Aruba* (1976) by Ito Tromp

Episode CCCXXII-322

Aruba's Journey Through Education and Culture

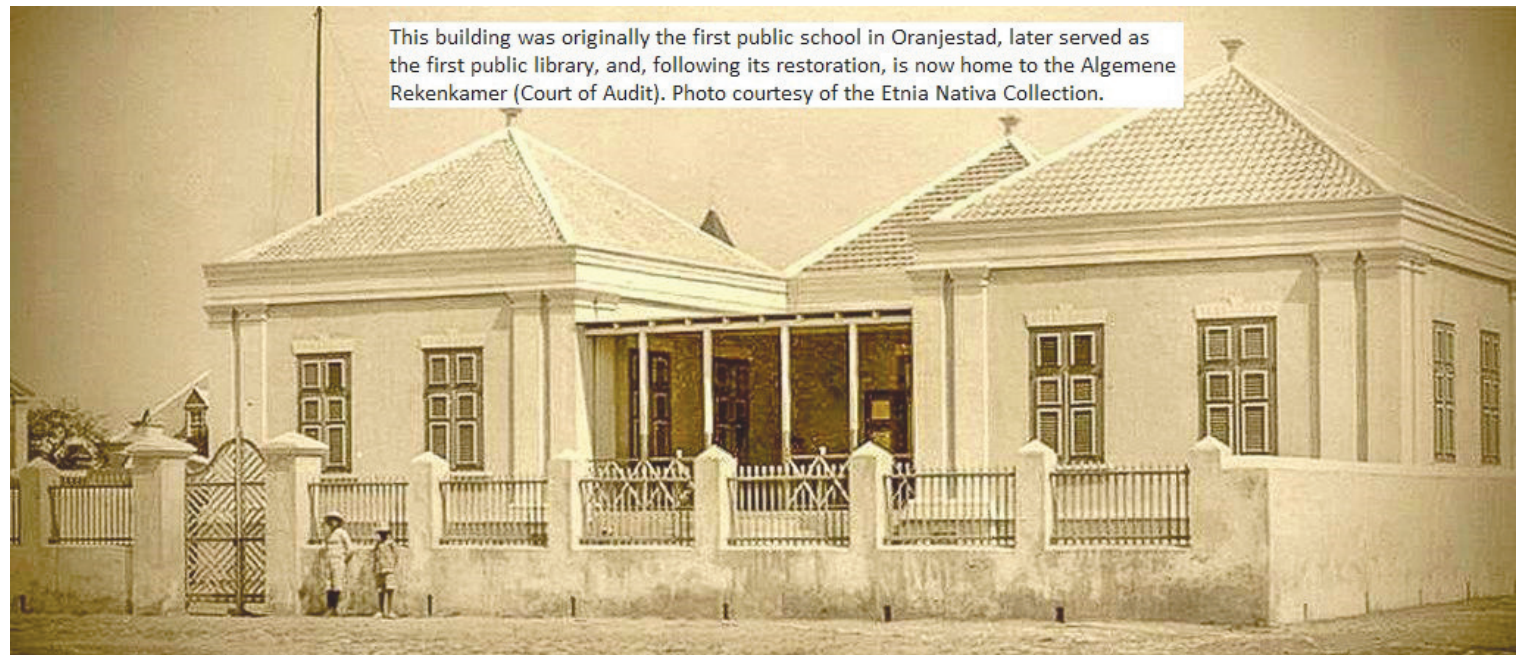
The narrative of Etnia Nativa highlights the importance of reclaiming Aruba's cultural identity and heritage. Through this platform, it shares an authentic native perspective, educates the public, and inspires readers to adopt an "island caretaker" mindset.

Join us and discover how education and literacy have shaped Aruba's contemporary cultural life.

Day-to-day life in early 19th-century Aruba was largely monotonous. Many people preferred to rest in hammocks, seeking refuge from the scorching sun and oppressive heat. Reading was uncommon—partly due to a long-standing misinterpretation of an old proverb passed down through generations, which warned that "reading can drive people mad."

At that time, only two schools had been established on the island. The public school offered Protestant education in Dutch, while the Roman Catholic school provided instruction in Spanish. In the late 1800s, nuns gradually took over teaching responsibilities. Schools were opened in Oranjestad, Noord, and Santa Cruz. In Oranjestad, Dutch was the only language of instruction in both public and Catholic schools. In contrast, schools in Noord and Santa Cruz began to replace Spanish with Papiamentu—the local language. By the turn of the century, a school in Savaneta was also teaching in Papiamentu. Meanwhile, a small Protestant school was founded in Piedra Plat, located northeast of the Hoiberg hill.

Although Aruba did not experience significant economic or demographic growth during this period, islanders generally lived content and peaceful lives. With the exception of folk dances, religious ceremonies, and harvest festivals—some of which were documented in Van Meeteren's *Volkskunde* (Ethnology)—very little historical litera-



This building was originally the first public school in Oranjestad, later served as the first public library, and, following its restoration, is now home to the Algemene Rekenkamer (Court of Audit). Photo courtesy of the Etnia Nativa Collection.

ture captures the island's early cultural evolution. However, Hartog's writings mention Aruba's first native Antillean poet, "Mosa Lampe," who reportedly wrote letters in Dutch and enjoyed composing and reading Dutch poetry.

In 1894, the *Arubasche Courant* (Aruban Newspaper) was founded. As the century progressed, reading gradually became more widespread, although access to formal education remained limited.

In 1905, a library was established in Aruba. Initially serving only 12 members, it functioned as a subsection of the Curaçao Library, which was part of the Netherlands Antilles branch of the Algemeen Nederlands Verbond (Universal Dutch Association). The city of Rotterdam contributed nearly 500 books to the library's founding collection. The arrival of the oil industry in 1924—with companies like Eagle and Lago Petroleum Corporation—had a significant impact on education and vocational training. The Lago Oil Company launched a top-of-the-line apprenticeship program to teach young men English, mechanical and technical skills, preparing them to work at what was then the world's most modern oil refinery. Aruba's first trade school was officially established in 1952.

In terms of literary culture, the Aruba Boekhandel



Etnia Nativa Library

107. In 1952 D. J. de Wit opened the Aruba Boekhandel (Aruba Bookshop) in Nassau Street, one of the finest shops of the town.

(Aruba Bookshop) began as a single small business in the 1950s. It eventually expanded into a company operating five separate shops. Unlike bookstores in the Netherlands, Aruba's bookshops also sold toys and other non-literary items, which helped attract customers and boost book sales. Within ten years, book turnover had increased to nearly four times what it had been in 1950.

Magazines—primarily imported from the United States—had a monthly circulation of approximately 30,000 copies. While this might suggest that English-language publications were more popular than Dutch ones that was not the case. The sale and circulation of Dutch books—

particularly through the Public Library—consistently exceeded those of English titles.

The Public Library experienced significant growth. Initially, it circulated approximately 15,921 books. By the 1960s, that number had risen to over 60,000—more than one book per resident. Around this time, the library moved to a larger building in Oranjestad to accommodate the island's growing appetite for reading.

This expansion continued into San Nicolas, where a library branch opened to the public in September 1959. It soon developed into a fully functioning public library, with dedicated sections for both adults and children.

Tired of Aruba's tourist façade? Then it's time to go deeper. Etnia Nativa isn't a souvenir shop or staged attraction—it's the island's cultural heartbeat. An authentic, ever-evolving space, founded in 1994 by a visionary who helped shape Aruba's National Park, Archaeological Museum, and local artisan traditions.

Tucked away in the high-rise area, this private cultural sanctuary isn't on tour maps—and that's intentional. It's for those who seek authenticity over convenience.

Think that's you? Come find out. Experience Etnia Nativa Whats App+297 592 2702 etniana03@gmail.com

Up for a snorkeling adventure in Aruba? Top 3 shipwrecks to explore

(ORANJESTAD) – Aruba is not only the perfect vacation destination to sit back and relax on the sandy beaches but also has great snorkeling spots for passionate adventurers to explore. On the coast of the island, there are various shipwrecks that have become fan-favorites over the years. Here are the top 3 shipwrecks you should explore.

SS Antilla
Dubbed “The Ghost Ship”, SS Antilla is the biggest and most visited shipwreck site off the coast of the island. Located in Malmok, this 400-foot ship’s story is one of capture and sabotage during WWII.

After Germany invaded The Netherlands, Dutch authorities ordered the confinement of the ship’s German crew, who were ported in Aruba because it needed to find a neutral port. The Dutch ordered the ship to be confiscated, but the German crew had other plans. Taking advan-



tage of a delay caused by an anticipated armed resistance, the Germans started scuttling the ship, opening her seacock and setting her ablaze.

Eventually, the crew was arrested, but SS Antilla could not be saved by the Dutch forces. The Dutch fired two rounds of their 35mm gun aboard the ‘Aruba’ at SS Antilla and left her to sink.

The shipwreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you’ll be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the shipwreck alone is already impressive enough. SS Pedernales

Like the Antilla, the story of SS Pedernales dates to WWII. Pedernales was used as a lake tanker between Venezuela and Aruba, and sailed under British Flag. At this time, The US and Britain were using Aruba and Curacao as fuel stations for the war ships.

Under operation Neuland (disruption of British and American oil sources), Germany fleets bombed Pedernales. The ship was later cut into three sections, two of which were taken to the US for reconstruction. The remaining part stayed in Aruba and was used as target practice. Eventually, the ship became a snorkeling site that has attracted

many visitors throughout the years.

Pedernales lies on the north-west coast of Aruba, and is no more than 10 feet under water, making it an ideal site for snorkelers and divers of all levels.

Jane Sea Wreck
The Jane Sea Wreck lies near Palm Island at 100 feet underwater. Jane’s story is heavily speculated, making her origin a tale of legends.

Launched in 1959, the 190-foot ship was initially called “Blackthorn”. Her last owner, S&D Shipping Ltd. named her Jane Sea. Jane was a cement freighter between Venezuela and Aruba.

The story goes that the Jane Sea arrived one day at the Barcadera Harbor, where Aruban customs discovered several tons of cocaine. The ship was confiscated and petitioned went out for her owner to claim her. However, several years

went by and no one came forward to claim the ship, so dive operators decided to sink her as an artificial reef. This happened in 1988. Jane Sea earned the nickname Jane C, because of the illicit white powder discovered on board.

Jane is now beautifully overgrown with coral and is home to a diverse set of marine life, like turtles, octopus, crabs and sometimes even nurse sharks.

The stories behind these shipwrecks enriches their exploration and offers snorkelers and divers a glance into the past, as well as the beautiful marine life that have molded these wrecks into their home. So, grab your equipment and discover another side of what Aruba has to offer!

We highly recommend you embark on your adventure with the guide of a professional and be sure to take of yourself and Aruba’s precious nature.

Know more about the Town Hall Eloy Arends building

The Monuments bureau shares some essential facts about the Town Hall known as the Eloy Arends building. The aim is to educate the community about the mansion’s construction, history, and preservation.

The Doctor Eloy Arends building is located at the Wilhelminastraat 8 and was the home of the Arends family. It was the first building that the Monuments bureau, and the Government of Aruba, restored in 1997. Mr. Medardo ‘Dada’ Picus, was the architect of this Aruban-Caribbean building. The building sits on a 1.545 m² plot of land and is a typical Aruban mansion. It is an open home with false walls that allow the connection of the rooms with each other.

The entrance has large doors and columns supporting the floor of the upper balcony. In between



the columns, there are decoration details made out of wood. The elaborately detailed embellishment is known as gingerbread trim and the triangular decorative wall surface over the columns is called the tympanum.

The top of the doors and windows have stained glass. The building is not built on

ground level but at approximately 1.5 meters above ground level. This mansion elevation created storage below the wooden floors and allowed proper ventilation.

The building has lots of windows which allow plenty of light inside, as well as good ventilation. It has dormer windows and crowns on the outside part



of the roof and different decorations on the edges of the walls and facade.

This is a stunning building full of beautiful details that resemble its beauty and transform into a history of love. Aruban tradition for “well-to-do” families dictates that before a man gets married, he has to present his future wife with a newly built and fully furnished house. It was certainly the case with this building.

Due to the engagement between Eloy Arends and Monica Lacle (daughter of

Adriaan Lacle, who is mainly known for the boulevard that bears his name), the construction of the mansion began in 1922 and was completed in 1925 when the couple got married.

The Office of the Civil Registry is located in the adjacent building, whereas the mansion hall is used exclusively for civil wedding ceremonies.

The Monuments bureau will continue to contribute and educate the community about the history of our monuments with significant value for Aruba.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 38 Pretend count 39 "Parade" composer

5 Night fliers 40 Post 9 Field units 41 Marsh plant

11 Skilled Hack-neyed

14 2014 Winter Games site

15 Load unit 16 Like a cardinal

18 Fancy homes

20 Smelter supply

21 "Grace-land" singer

22 Some bills

23 Negative link

24 Avril follower

25 Farm litter

27 Link up

29 Band booster

30 Sawbuck

32 Sicilian port

34 John, in Jersey

35 Banded rock

36 All set

DOWN 1 Barista's creation

2 Clue heading

3 Inked item

4 Deter-mined

5 Diamond corners

6 Fussess

7 Shifting thing

8 Bubble, e.g.

10 District motions

12 Ocean's

17 Stimpy's pal

19 Singer Tori

22 Stable diet

24 They're underage

25 Vatican-based

26 Sights line

27 Clothes type

28 Sweatshirt

30 Pollster's find

31 Trifled

33 School on the Thames

37 Corn spike

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

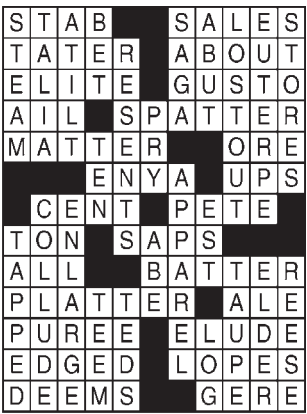
One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-29 CRYPTOQUOTE

S RSHJ KB FMW, KMHJ KGJ

FGBK, JLJE SN WBOT HEJFF MTJ

FGMHSEI. — TBASE TBAJTKF
Cryptoquote: I DO THINGS LIKE GET IN A TAXI AND SAY, "THE LIBRARY, AND STEP ON IT." — DAVID FOSTER WALLACE



Cruise ship Schedule: Sep 16 - 30 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	CALLS
TUE	16	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
TUE	23	CARNIVAL MAGIC	09.00	22.00	C	1
		ISLAND PRINCESS	09.00	21.00	B	1
		FREEWINDS	10.00	****	E	1
WED	24	OASIS OF THE SEAS	07.00	16.00	I	1
		RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
SUN	28	GRAND PRINCESS	09.00	17.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	30	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

				5	8			
			1	4			9	
6		8	7		3	4	2	
5		2	8					4
4					9			2
	9		4	1		7		
3	4							
					4	8	6	5
			9	2				

Difficulty: ★★★

9/24

Answer to previous puzzle

8	2	6	5	7	4	9	1	3
4	3	9	8	1	2	5	6	7
7	1	5	6	3	9	2	8	4
5	9	1	2	8	7	4	3	6
6	4	8	9	5	3	1	7	2
3	7	2	1	4	6	8	9	5
2	6	4	3	9	1	7	5	8
9	5	3	7	2	8	6	4	1
1	8	7	4	6	5	3	2	9

Difficulty: ★★

9/23

'Nightmare bacteria' cases are increasing in the U.S.



A sign marks the entrance to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention headquarters Aug. 27, 2025, in Atlanta. Associated Press

By MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Infection rates from drug-resistant "nightmare bacteria" rose almost 70% between 2019 and 2023, according to a new report from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention scientists.

Bacteria that are difficult to treat due to the so-called NDM gene primarily drove the increase, CDC researchers wrote in an article published Monday in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Only two antibiotics work against those infections, and the drugs are expensive and must be administered through an IV, researchers said.

Bacteria with the gene were once considered exotic, linked to a small number of patients who received medical care overseas. Though the numbers are still small, the rate of U.S. cases jumped more than fivefold in recent years, the researchers reported.

"The rise of NDMs in the U.S. is a grave danger and very worrisome," said David Weiss, an Emory University infectious diseases researcher, in an email.

It's likely many people are unrecognized carriers of the drug-resistant bacteria, which could lead to community spread, the CDC scientists said.

That may play out in doctors' offices across the country, as infections long considered routine and easy to treat like urinary tract infections could become chronic problems, said Dr. Maroya Walters, one of the report's authors. Antimicrobial resistance occurs when germs such as bacteria and fungi gain the power to fight off the drugs designed to kill them. □

Classifieds

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2 BR 2 Bath Garden view \$11K
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or less left
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325751

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Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House for sale

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Moko (Noord)
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Price :\$280,000
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House For sale

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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

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219596

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1225 m2
Price : \$ 500,000
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Central: Tel.585 1965

San Nicolas:

Centro Medico:Tel.584 5794

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank	Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired	Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous	Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous	Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia	Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes	Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention	Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club	Tel. 525 2672

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TikTok's algorithm to be licensed to U.S. joint venture led by Oracle and Silver Lake

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE** and **CHRIS MEGERIAN**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tech giant Oracle will spearhead U.S. oversight of the algorithm and security underlying TikTok's popular video platform under the terms of a deal laid out this week by President Donald Trump's administration.

All the final details still need to be nailed down among several joint venture partners that will include Oracle, investment firm Silver Lake Partners and possibly two billionaires media mogul Rupert Murdoch and personal computer pioneer Michael Dell. The U.S. administration would not have a stake in the joint venture nor be part of its board, according to a senior White House official.

President Trump is expected to issue an executive order later this week that declares that the terms of the deal meet the security concerns laid out by the law, the senior White House official said. China still needs to sign off on the framework proposal, and any final deal would still require regulatory approval. The proposal is aimed at resolving a long-running effort to wrest TikTok's U.S. operations from its Beijing-based parent company, ByteDance, because of national security concerns. TikTok has become a high-profile



The TikTok logo is pictured in Tokyo, Sept. 28, 2020.

Associated Press

topic during conversations between Trump and China President Xi Jinping as they continue to spar in a trade war that's roiled the global economy for much of the year.

For now, the two sides are progressing on a framework deal that calls for a consortium of investors, including Oracle and Silver Lake, to take over the U.S. operations of TikTok in a process that might not be completed until early next year under a timeline laid out Monday by the Trump administration. That could mean TikTok's divestment might not be completed until a year after it was sup-

posed to be banned under a law that had bipartisan support but was repeatedly bypassed by Trump.

Under the current terms of the proposal, the new U.S. joint venture would receive a licensed copy of the recommendation algorithm that keeps TikTok users endlessly scrolling through clips on their smartphones. Oracle would review, monitor and secure U.S. data flowing through the service.

American officials have previously warned that ByteDance's algorithm is vulnerable to manipulation by Chinese authorities, who can use it to shape content on the platform in a way

that's difficult to detect.

The algorithm has been a central issue in the security debate over TikTok.

China previously maintained the algorithm must remain under Chinese control by law. But a U.S. regulation passed with bipartisan support said any divestment of TikTok must mean the platform cuts ties specifically the algorithm with ByteDance.

Although the details remain sketchy, a Trump administration official said that the licensed copy will be "retrained" with U.S. data to make sure the system is "behaving appropriately." That makes it unclear if the

U.S. version of TikTok will look different from what users are seeing in the rest of the world. Any noticeable changes made to a social media platform's service raises the risk of alienating its audience, said Jasmine Enberg, an analyst for the research firm eMarketer.

"Social media is just as much about the culture as it is the technology, and how users will take to new ownership and potentially a new version of the app is still an open question," Enberg said.

In a Monday briefing, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said the change in control won't change the experience. "TikTok users in the U.S. will be able to see videos posted by users in other countries and vice versa," Leavitt said.

In a prime example of how a change of control can reshape a once-popular social media platform, billionaire Elon Musk triggered an almost immediate backlash after he completed his \$44 billion takeover of Twitter nearly three years ago. But Musk made extremely visible changes, including eventually dropping the Twitter brand and changing its name to X.

The changes that gradually occur while different data is fed into the U.S. copy of TikTok's algorithm could be subtle and unnoticeable to most of its audience. □

Rafael Nadal alerts about fake videos of him offering financial advice



Rafael Nadal of Spain, poses during the 2025 Laureus World Sports Awards in Madrid, Spain, Monday, April 21, 2025.

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Rafael Nadal is warning about fake online videos of him offering financial advice, and the risks of artificial intelligence.

The retired tennis great said on Tuesday he has never endorsed any of the online videos or their messages.

"I want to share this message of caution something unusual for my social media, but necessary," he wrote on LinkedIn. "In recent days, together with my team, we have detected fake videos circulating on some platforms. These were generated with artificial intelligence, showing a figure that imitates my image and my voice. In those videos, I am falsely attributed with investment advice or proposals that in no case come from me."

Nadal said it was "misleading advertising, completely unrelated" to him.

He talked about society's challenge of learning to distinguish between what is real and what is manipulated, and of "promoting an ethical and responsible use of technology." "Innovation is always positive when it serves people, but we must remain aware of its risks and act with critical thinking," he said. "Artificial intelligence is a tool with enormous potential, capable of bringing extraordinary progress in education, medicine, sports, and communication. However, it can also be misused, creating false content that generates confusion and may deceive many people." □

It's rare to see the Ravens pushed around physically, but that's what happened against Detroit

By NOAH TRISTER

AP Sports Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — By the end of the game, the contrast was too obvious to ignore.

Jared Goff could wait patiently in the pocket with time to pick apart the Baltimore defense.

Meanwhile, Lamar Jackson's legendary elusiveness became less and less effective as the Ravens' offense broke down against a swarming Detroit pass rush.

When Jackson has been healthy these past few seasons, the Ravens have almost never lost unless they beat themselves in some fashion, be it with turnovers, penalties or other careless mistakes.

Monday night was different, however. Baltimore was simply outplayed in a 38-30 defeat in which the Lions were the dominant team physically, outrushing the Ravens 224-85.

That's the kind of differential that's often in Baltimore's favor.

"Our run defense, it's been pretty good the whole time I've been here, but when a team runs a ball like that, it just demoralizes you more than passing the ball," safety Kyle Hamilton said. "They're challenging you mentally (and) physically,



Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson (8) is tripped up by Detroit Lions linebacker Derrick Barnes (55) during the second half of an NFL football game Monday, Sept. 22, 2025, in Baltimore.

so it's on us as a defense just to put that fire out ASAP, and we didn't do that."

It's felt for a while like Baltimore's injury report only matters if Jackson is on it, but a few other absences are hurting them significantly at the moment. Fullback Patrick Ricard isn't the first man you think of when discussing the Ravens' offense, but his calf injury has an impact on Baltimore's running game, which has been surprisingly ineffective near the goal line.

Defensive tackle Nnamdi Madubuike (neck) and pass rusher Kyle Van Noy (hamstring) were also out, and that was a factor in Baltimore's weak defensive performance.

The Ravens started 0-2 last season and still won the AFC North. Now they'll have to climb out of a 1-2 hole.

What's working

Jackson took seven sacks but still finished with a passer rating of 148.1. In the first half at least, he was able

to find receivers downfield and kept plays alive when he needed to.

Despite an injury to tight end Isaiah Likely, the Ravens have plenty of people for Jackson to throw to.

"He made some on-time throws, tried to move around in the pocket and make some plays," coach John Harbaugh said. "They got us on some sacks when you're trying to throw the ball like that at the end of the game."

What needs work

Baltimore held Cleveland's anemic offense to 17 points in Week 2, but the Ravens allowed 41 to Buffalo and 38 to Detroit. They haven't shown they can hold up defensively against the other top teams in the league. Baltimore's 57-game sack streak was snapped against the Lions.

"We're not trying to reinvent the wheel. We just have to go play football," Hamilton said. "It's probably not a good answer, but it's running and it's hitting, and we have to run and hit better."

Stock up

After a slow start to the season, tight end Mark Andrews caught six passes for 91 yards and two touchdowns.

"It just felt good getting in the end zone, making some plays, getting in a rhythm, and I thought Lamar threw some incredible passes," Andrews said. "It just felt really good. I'm always excited to help this team and try to help make plays."

Stock down

Derrick Henry has now fumbled in each of the first three games of the season twice in big fourth-quarter spots. He was shut down after an early 28-yard touchdown run. "I didn't see the guy coming from behind. I just have to hold onto the ball," Henry said. □

New York Liberty part ways with championship-winning coach Sandy Brondello

By DOUG FEINBERG

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Liberty will not renew coach Sandy Brondello's contract for next season, the organization announced Tuesday.

Brondello led the Liberty to its first WNBA championship in 2024, but the team struggled with injuries to star players Breanna Stewart, Jonquel Jones and Sabrina Ionescu this year. New York earned the No. 5 seed in the playoffs and lost in the first round to the Phoenix Mercury.

"It has been a privilege to have coached the NY Liberty these last four years. Bringing the first ever championship to New York will always be the most amazing feeling. I wish the team and organization more success moving forward," Brondello said to The Associated Press in a text message.

Brondello went 107-53 in her four seasons with the team, giving her the most wins in franchise history. The Liberty got off to a franchise-best start, winning nine straight games, only to stumble over the next few months as injuries took their toll.

"We would like to thank Sandy Brondello for her everlasting impact on the New York Liberty," Liberty GM Jonathan Kolb said. "Sandy finishes her tenure in New York as the winningest coach in franchise history, and she took us to never-before-seen heights as the first head coach to lead the Liberty to a championship. We wish Sandy the very best in her next chapter."

She had her players support after the team lost in the playoffs last week. □



New York Liberty coach Sandy Brondello watches the first half of Game 2 in the first round of the WNBA basketball playoffs against the Phoenix Mercury, Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025, in New York.

Associated Press

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An MLB debut patch adorns the sleeve of Boston Red Sox's Nick Sogard before his debut in a baseball game against the Texas Rangers, Friday, Aug. 2, 2024, in Arlington, Texas.
Associated Press

Sponsor patches on uniforms would raise millions but some athletic directors in wait-and-see mode

By ERIC OLSON
AP College Football Writer
The leader of the largest multimedia rights holder in college athletics is confident sponsor patches will begin appearing on team jerseys sooner than later with schools under pressure to find new ways to make

money in this new era of revenue-sharing with athletes.
Learfield President and CEO Cole Gahagan told The Associated Press the 67 power-conference schools and Notre Dame could combine to tap into hundreds of millions of dollars of new revenue once NCAA approval is granted. Gahagan predicted approval would come within months.
Sponsor patches on the front, back or sleeves of jerseys have been part of international soccer for decades and have become common in the NBA, NHL, MLS and Major League Baseball in recent years. Last year, the 23 MLB teams with jersey patches generated a total of \$204 million from those ads, according to sports marketing data firm SponsorUnited.
"There's no reason why college should sit behind those leagues with that opportunity, as sizable as it is," Gahagan said.
Other than the logo of a school's apparel sponsor, corporate branding patches on uniforms are prohibited by the NCAA. But the NCAA's decision last year to allow commercial advertisements on football fields makes approval of uniform patches seem inevitable.
"It'll come, and it should come," Nebraska athletic director Troy Dannen said. "As part of the NCAA modernizing its rules, it's overdue."
A potential holdup would be the exclusivity clauses in schools' contracts with apparel partners. Brands such as adidas,

Nike and Under Armour do not allow marks of other corporate sponsors on the uniforms they supply to schools.
Gahagan said he and other stakeholders have had promising conversations with the apparel companies to ease that restriction. Learfield in December announced a program that would provide additional marketing opportunities for the apparel providers in exchange for allowing other jersey patches. Nike and Under Armour did not respond to requests for comment and adidas declined to comment.
Texas Tech athletic director Kirby Hocutt said he didn't foresee his apparel sponsor being a roadblock.
"I've found that adidas in everything we've had conversations about jersey patches included has been open minded and reasonable and willing to consider any opportunity that's going to advance Texas Tech athletics," he said.
Nebraska and Texas Tech, like most other power-conference programs, are spending the maximum \$20.5 million on direct revenue-sharing payments to athletes this school year. They've had to be creative in finding ways to fund the new expense, and Hocutt said jersey patches show promise.
"It's definitely something that is in the sponsorship deck that we're presenting to select partners about that opportunity in anticipation of it happening," The said. "Do we have a deal on deck? Not quite yet."□

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